

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application and indicating that claims 5-8, 20-22, 24-26, and 35-37 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-37 were pending in the present patent application. By way of this reply, claims 1, 7-9, 11, 13-15, 18, 21-23, 25, 26, 31, 32, 36, and 37 have been amended and claims 4, 6, 17, 20, 24, and 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5, 7-16, 18, 19, 21-23, 25-34, 36, and 37 are currently pending in the present application.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claims 4 and 6. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claims 7-9, 11, and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 1. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claims 4 and 6, albeit in means-plus function form. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claims 17 and 20. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claims 18, 21, and 22 have been amended to depend from claim 15. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claim 24. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claims 25 and 26 have been amended to depend from claim 23. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claim 31 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claim 24, albeit in mean-plus function form. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled claim 35. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claims 36 and 37 have been amended to depend from claim 32. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning an initialed PTO-1449 for the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the present application on March 28, 2001. Applicant thanks the Examiner for returning an initialed PTO-1449 for the first page of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and return of an initialed PTO-1449 for the second page of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2003.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the reference entitled “Modeling of Power Distribution Systems for High-Performance Microprocessors” authored by Herrell et al. (hereinafter “Herrell”). However, because independent claim 14 has been amended to include, albeit in mean-plus function form, the allowable subject matter of now-canceled claim 6 (*see* Office Action of May 6, 2005, page 9), amended independent claim 14 is allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Herrell in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,737,202 issued to Shimamori (hereinafter “Shimamori”). However, because independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now-canceled claim 6 (*see* Office Action of May 6, 2005, page 9), amended independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art. Dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 9-13, 15-19, 23, and 27-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Herrell in view of Shimamori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,565 issued to Anderson (hereinafter “Anderson”). By way of this reply, claims 4 and 17 have been cancelled, and thus, the rejection of these claims is moot. Of the remaining claims, (i) independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now-canceled claim 6 (*see* Office Action of May 6, 2005, page 9), (ii) independent claim 15

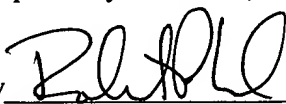
has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now-canceled claim 20 (*see* Office Action of May 6, 2005, page 9), (iii) independent claim 23 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now-canceled claim 24 (*see* Office Action of May 6, 2005, page 9), (iv) independent claim 31 has been amended to include, albeit in means-plus function form, the allowable subject matter of now-canceled claim 24 (*see* Office Action of May 6, 2005, page 9), and (v) independent claim 32 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of now-canceled claim 35 (*see* Office Action of May 6, 2005, page 9). Thus, amended independent claims 1, 15, 23, 31, and 32 are allowable over the prior art. Dependent claims 9-13, 16-19, 27-30, 33, and 34 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/064001; P5346).

Dated: June 13, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments